

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00588 071023Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 /063 W
-----071346Z 053727 /53

R 071010Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6044
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0588

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AG, EG
SUBJECT: BOUTEFLIKA LEADS ALGERIAN DELEGATION TO AFRO-ARAB
SUMMIT PREPARATORY MEETING

1. FON MIN BOUTEFLIKA LED ALGERIAN DELEGATION TO CAIRO
MARCH 3 FOR PREPARATORY MEETING FOR AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT.
OTHERS IN DELEGATION WERE TOURISM MINISTER MAOUI, WHO SEEMS
BO BE RECEIVING CRASH COURSE IN DIPLOMACY BEFORE LAUNCHING
HIS AMBASSADORIAL CAREER, FON MINISTRY POLITICAL AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR ADJALI, ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO KHARTOUM AND
CAIRO, AND OTHER FON MIN OFFICIALS.

2. IN SERIES OF PRESS INTERVIEWS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM
ALGIERS AND ON ARRIVAL IN CAIRO, BOUTEFLIKA WAS QUITE
MODERATE AND MADE LITTLE NEWS. HE REFERRED TO
AFRICA'S "INTERNAL PROBLEMS" ONLY IN PASSING AND WITHOUT
BECOMING MORE SPECIFIC. SIMILARLY, ALTHOUGH PROFESSING
HIMSELF DISSATISFIED WITH INTERMINABLE NIEO DISCUSSIONS IN
PARIS, HE CITED EFFORTS AT EURO-ARAB AND EURO-AFRICAN
COOPERATION.

3. BOUTEFLIKA ALSO WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO PRAISE
EGYPT AND EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT AT SUGGESTION BY
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ALGERIAN JOURNALIST THAT ALGERIAN-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS
HAD BEEN CHILLY OR TROUBLED OF LATE. HE EVIDENTLY
MADE THIS POINT STRONGLY SINCE OFFICIAL FRENCH DAILY
FELT COMPELLED TO PUBLISH A NOTE THAT JOURNALIST'S
FOOLISH QUESTION HAD STEMMED FROM INTOXICATION
PROVOKED BY THOSE WHOSE COLLUSION WITH COLONIALISM WAS
INDICATED BY THEIR PARTICIPATION IN AGGRESSION AGAINST

BENIN.

4. COMMENT: BOUTEFLIKA'S MODERATE TONE SUGGESTS
THAT ALGERIANS NOT INTENDING TO MAKE FUSS AT CAIRO, ON
SAHARA OR ANYTHING ELSE. LOW-KEY STATUS QUO SEEMS TO BE
WATCHWORD HERE ON SAHARA, AND ONE WELL-PLACED FON MINISTRY
OFFICIAL TOLD FOREIGN VISITOR THAT PROBLEM COULD BE
SETTLED BY SOME SORT OF MEDIATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PLANNING MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALGIER00588
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770077-0900
Format: TEL
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770388/aaaaczgg.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 06ab12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3191873
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOUTEFLIKA LEADS ALGERIAN DELEGATION TO AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT PREPARATORY MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, AG, EG, (BOUTEFLIKA, ABDELAZIZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/06ab12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009